

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121.

By this Amendment and Response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants amend claims 39, 40, 42, 44-49, 53, 58, 59, and 64-68 to improve form and adds new claim 72. Claims 39-72 are pending.

With regard to the Examiner's restriction requirement, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following inventions: Group I corresponding to claims 39-48 allegedly drawn to a packet forwarding apparatus, which is classified in class 370, subclass 428; and Group II corresponding to claims 49-71 drawn to a method and apparatus for processing packet utilizing input queue, which is classified in class 370, subclass 415. The Examiner alleged that the inventions of Groups I and II are related as a combination and subcombination.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend independent claim 39 to recite an apparatus for processing a packet utilizing an input queue similar to the claims in Group II. Therefore, claims 39-48 and 72 should now be included in Group II. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Examiner's restriction requirement is rendered moot. Nevertheless, Applicants provisionally select Group II.

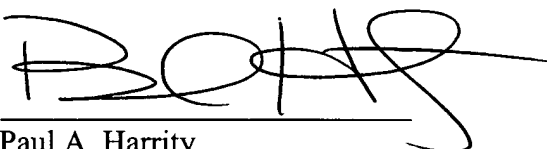
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the restriction requirement and favorable examination of pending claims 39-72 are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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